

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- A method for managing a machinery supply chain utilizing a network,
 comprising:
- a) receiving data from a plurality of machinery outlets of a machinery supply chain utilizing a network, the data relating to the sale of machinery products by the
- 5 machinery outlets;

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- b) generating an electronic order form based on the data for ordering machinery
 products from a machinery distributor of the machinery supply chain;
- 8 c) transmitting the data to the machinery distributor of the machinery supply chain utilizing the network;
- transmitting the data to a machinery supplier of the machinery supply chain utilizing the network; and
- 12 e) forecasting activity in the machinery supply chain utilizing the data.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the data is parsed to match each of a plurality of machinery distributors and machinery suppliers.
- 1 3. The method of claim 2, wherein the data is made accessible to the machinery outlets, the machinery distributor, the machinery supplier via a network-based interface.
- 1 4. The method of claim 3, wherein the data is accessible to the machinery distributor 2 and the machinery supplier only after verification of an identity thereof.
- 1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the network includes the Internet.





chain utilizing the network; and

- 1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the machinery outlets, the machinery distributor, 2 and the machinery supplier each forecast utilizing the data.
- 7. 1 A system for managing a machinery supply chain utilizing a network, comprising:
- 2 a) logic for receiving data from a plurality of machinery outlets of a machinery
- 3 supply chain utilizing a network, the data relating to the sale of machinery by the
- 4 machinery outlets;

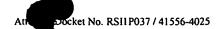
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- 5 b) logic for generating an electronic order form based on the data for ordering
- 6 machinery from a machinery distributor of the machinery supply chain;
- 7 c) logic for transmitting the data to the machinery distributor of the machinery 8 supply chain utilizing the network;
- 9 d) logic for transmitting the data to a machinery supplier of the machinery supply
- 11 e) logic for forecasting activity in the machinery supply chain utilizing the data.
- 1 8. The system of claim 7, wherein the data is parsed to match each of a plurality of 2 machinery distributors and machinery suppliers.
- 1 9. The system of claim 8, wherein the data is made accessible to the machinery 2 outlets, the machinery distributor, the machinery supplier via a network-based
- 3 interface.
- 1 10. The system of claim 9, wherein the data is accessible to the machinery distributor
- 2 and the machinery supplier only after verification of an identity thereof.
- 1 11. The system of claim 7, wherein the network includes the Internet.
- 1 12. The system of claim 7, wherein the machinery outlets, the machinery distributor,
- 2 and the machinery supplier each forecast utilizing the data.







- 1 13. A computer program product for managing a machinery supply chain utilizing a network, comprising:
- a) computer code for receiving data from a plurality of machinery outlets of a
 machinery supply chain utilizing a network, the data relating to the sale of
 machinery by the machinery outlets;
- b) computer code for generating an electronic order form based on the data for
 ordering machinery from a machinery distributor of the machinery supply chain;
- 8 c) computer code for transmitting the data to the machinery distributor of the 9 machinery supply chain utilizing the network;
- 10 d) computer code for transmitting the data to a machinery supplier of the machinery supply chain utilizing the network; and
- 12 e) computer code for forecasting activity in the machinery supply chain utilizing the data.
- 1 14. The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the data is parsed to match 2 each of a plurality of machinery distributors and machinery suppliers.
- 1 15. The computer program product of claim 14, wherein the data is made accessible to the machinery outlets, the machinery distributor, the machinery supplier via a network-based interface.
- 1 16. The computer program product of claim 15, wherein the data is accessible to the machinery distributor and the machinery supplier only after verification of an identity thereof.
- 1 17. The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the network includes the 2 Internet.
- 1 18. The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the machinery outlets, the
 2 machinery distributor, and the machinery supplier each forecast utilizing the data.